

Subject: Mrs. Bucknam's Turkish decoration  
(only for ladies) -- disposal of.

Logan + Bryan  
[42 Broadway]

1926-1928

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42 BROADWAY  
**NEW YORK,**

January 28th, 1926

American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway & 156th Street,  
City.

Gentlemen:

May I ask whether your Society or any of your members would be interested in a very beautiful Turkish order conferred upon Mrs. Bucknam, the wife of R. D. Bucknam Pasha, who years ago brought the Turkish battle-ships from Cramp's Yard to Constantinople and was afterwards made an Admiral of the Turkish Navy by the Sultan.

This jewelled order is very beautiful and is similar to the one which was presented to Mrs. Mark L. Bristol, wife of Admiral Bristol, who is now the American High Commissioner in Constantinople.

Mrs. Bucknam's case is one of the saddest of the refugees of the war and she is now an inmate of a Masonic Home in Michigan. She is endeavoring to sell her few remaining treasures and I sincerely hope that this beautiful star will prove of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

*E. Vail Stebbins*

EVS-hrf

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February 2nd, 1926

Messrs. Logan & Bryan  
42 Broadway  
New York City

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favour of January 28th,  
it is possible we should be interested in the Turk-  
ish decoration awarded to R. D. Bucknam Pasha, about  
which you write. Could you tell us what Order  
it is? And what Class? A rough description of the  
Order and the ribbon might be sufficient. Also, please  
let us know the price at which this decoration could  
be purchased.

If the Society should not be interested, I  
think it possible that it might interest one of our mem-  
bers.

Very truly yours,

Curator



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42 BROADWAY

**NEW YORK,**

Feb. 13, 1926.

MR. HOWLAND WOOD,  
Curator, American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway, between 155th and 156th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of Jan. 22nd in regard to  
the Turkish Decoration awarded to Mrs. R. D. Bucknam, Pasha (Rose T.  
Bucknam), she writes me as follows:

"This Turkish Decoration is mine and was  
given to me by the Sultan Abdul Hamid. It is only for  
ladies and was a Decoration for Chastity and Charity.  
It is the second class, and not many American ladies  
possess it. There will be no more given.

Friends of mine in Constantinople always  
write to me, and I will inquire more about the Decora-  
tion".

I have written Mrs. Bucknam asking her to let me  
have the name of the Order as soon as she hears what it is from  
her friends. She thinks she should get about \$100 for the jewel.  
If it is of any interest, I will be glad to show it to you or  
to any one of your members who may be interested.

Again thanking you for your kind interest and  
assistance in this matter, I am,

Very truly yours,

*E. Vail Stebbins*

EVS-M

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February 16th, 1926

Messrs. Logan & Bryan  
42 Broadway  
New York City

Attention - Mr. E. V. Stebbins

Gentlemen:

Replying to your favour of February 13th, jewelled Orders are very hard to dispose of, as most collectors prefer these pieces without the jewels. The Order, in itself, is not worth nearly One Hundred Dollars, but the jewels it contains may, or may not, bring its value to such a figure.

I cannot find in our records that any special Turkish Decoration was given to women only; it may possibly be one of the regular Decorations.

If you care to send the Order to our Museum here, I should be very glad to examine it.

Very truly yours,

Curator

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Curator



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42 BROADWAY  
**NEW YORK,**

Feb. 17, 1926.

MR. HOWLAND WOOD,  
Curator, American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway, Bet. 155th and 156th Sts.,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I thank you for your favor of Feb. 16th in  
regard to Mrs. Bucknam's Turkish Order. I will get this  
from the safe deposit, and will have pleasure in bringing  
it up and showing it to you.

I presume I can reach you on the telephone at  
the Society's offices during business hours.

Very truly yours,

*E. Vail Stebbins*

EVS-M

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
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42 BROADWAY  
**NEW YORK,**

Feb. 19, 1926.

MR. HOWLAND WOOD,  
Curator, American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway, Bet. 155th and 156th St.,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Rose T.  
Bucknam stating that her Turkish decoration is the "CHEFIKAT",  
which is only for ladies and was established by Abdul Hamid.

As I wrote you before, I expect very shortly  
to bring this jewel to your office for your inspection.

Sincerely yours,

*E. Vail Stebbins*

EVS-M

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February 19th, 1926

Messrs. Logan & Bryan  
42 Broadway  
New York City

Attention - Mr. E. V. Stebbins

Dear Sir:

With regard to Mr. Bucknam's Turkish Order, one of our members may be interested in seeing this. He lives in Philadelphia, but we are expecting him to be at our building on Friday morning and until about 3 p.m. of the 12th of March, at which time I would suggest that you send the Order here for his examination.

Very truly yours,

Curator



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42 BROADWAY

**NEW YORK,**

May 11th, 1926

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway & 155th Street,  
City.

Dear Sir:

I have just returned from a prolonged trip to the Pacific Coast. You will remember that just prior to starting, I sent up to you for examination a Turkish star of the Chefikat order for women belonging to Mrs. R. T. Bucknam with the hope that one of your members might be interested in the purchase of same.

Will you kindly let me know whether the gentleman, who unfortunately had just left New York when I sent you the star has returned and has had the opportunity of seeing it or whether anyone else has been interested.

As I told you in previous letters, Mrs. Bucknam was made destitute by the war and is now in a home, and it is for this reason that I am interested in trying to sell this jewel for her.

I want to again express my thanks for your kind interest in the matter and hope, that in view of the worthy cause you will pardon my having asked your assistance in the matter.

Very truly yours,

*E. Vail Stebbins*

EVS-hrf

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May 12th, 1926

E. Vail Stebbins, Esq.  
Logan & Bryan  
42 Broadway, New York

Dear Sir:

With regard to Mrs. Bucknam's Turkish decoration, I regret to say that I have been unable to find a purchaser. The member whom I had in mind, examined the piece and stated that he already had a specimen of this almost identical with that sent here by you. Our Society would like to purchase the piece but unfortunately at the present time has no funds for buying, as we have either spent or pledged all the money in our Purchasing Fund as several very fine opportunities came up just lately.

If you would care to leave this decoration with us a little longer, we shall be glad to see if we can find a purchaser for it or else buy it ourselves for the Society's collection. But if you have a chance to sell the piece, I shall be glad to return it at once to you. If I remember correctly, I believe you said the price would be about one hundred dollars.

Very truly yours,

Curator



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42 BROADWAY

**NEW YORK,**

10th February 1928.

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WILLIAM F. KANE  
R. C. JENKINS  
DEWITT HARLOW

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Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway & 155th Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

On the 15th of March 1926, I sent up to you for examination one star of the Chefikat for women set with jewels, the property of Mrs. Bucknam, in the hopes that you would be able to sell the same for her, this lady as you will remember having become destitute during the War and being now lodged in a Masonic home in Michigan.

In the last letter which I had from you on this subject, dated May 12th 1926, you say

"If you would care to leave this decoration with us a little longer we shall be glad to see if we can find a purchaser for it or else buy it ourselves for the Society's collection".

May I ask you whether you have been able to interest any body in it, or whether you believe that you could interest your Society in buying it.

I am very anxious to do what I can to sell this star for Mrs. Bucknam, who during middle life was the wife of Bucknam Pasha, Admiral of the Turkish Navy, and who through force of circumstances after the War became first a refugee and finally destitute.

Very truly yours,

*E. Vail Stebbins*

EVS:C

*100 = fee*

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15th Feb., 1928

Mr. E. Vail Stebbins,  
42 Broadway,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of February 10th, all I can say is that I have been unable to interest any one in that Turkish Order of Chefikat. I have shown this to a number of people and have had it on view upstairs amongst things we desire to purchase, but no one wanted to pay a fair price for it. I certainly thought at the time I could easily sell it or acquire it for the Museum. As a matter of fact, interest in decorations has tapered off to such an extent that the collecting of them today is almost nil. I am consequently having this returned to you by parcel post, insured, as I feel that there is no longer need of holding it.

Very truly yours,

Curator



# LOGAN & BRYAN

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**NEW YORK,** 16th February 1928.

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Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,  
The American Numismatic Society,  
Broadway & 155th Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I want to thank you for the interest you have taken  
in attempting to sell Mrs. Bucknam's Turkish Order of Chefikat  
and to express appreciation on her behalf as well as my own.

My reason for writing you is that I believe I have  
stimulated the interest of a rich friend of mine who may  
possibly buy it. Should you at any time in the future hear  
of anyone who might be interested, please let me know, as  
there is no certainty that the gentleman who is now slightly  
interested will actually buy it.

Very truly yours,

*E. Vail Stebbins*

EVS:C